(d) Does not arise.

Disposal of claims applications received from Erstwhile East Pakistan refugees

3378. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan claiming compensation for the property they had lost/left in that country before migrating to India during the last ten years;

(b) how many of such applicaions have been verified and compensation valued;

(c) whether full verified claims have been paid to them; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the progress made in Government of India's attempt to settle the compensation issue of the refugees in their talks with the Bangladesh Government; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Bengladesh Government are selling away the properties of refugees who have crossed over to India; if so, whether Government of India have taken up the matter with that Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) 57,493 claims were registered with the Custodian of Enemy Property, out of which 24,163 claims cases have been disposed so far. 21,659 claims have been treated as dormant and 11,671 claim cases remain to be processed. An amount of Rs. 62.26 crores has been paid as compensation so far.

(c) Ministry of Commerce administers payment of ex-gratia grant to Indian national/companies whose assets were seized by the Government of Pakistan during Indo-Pak conflict of 1965 and who registered their claim with the Custodian of Enemy Property within the stipulated date i.e. 31-7-1977. The relief is given in the form of ex-gratia grant from the Consolidated Fund of India at the rate of 25 per cent of the verified value of the claims. No further payment in addition to 25 per cent of the verified value of claims is admissible under Ex-Gratia Scheme.

(d) and (e) Government have been maintaining contact with the Bangladesh Government with a view to find a solution to the problem of vested property, seeking the return of such properties to their rightful owners or compensation in lieu. In this connection Government had also been requesting the Bangladesh Government not to dispose of such properties. The Bangladesh President announced in June, 1984 that the disposal of vested properties was being suspended forthwith.

Export of Gum Karaya

3379. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Gum Karaya is only permissible under foreign currency areas;

(b) if so, whether the canalising agency permitted the said export to rupee currency area in violation of the laid down norms of the export procedure;

(c) the number of complaints received from foreign buyers and the nature thereof; and

(d) the amount involved in claims lodged through complaints in the export of Gum Karaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) NAFED and TRIFED have not received any specific complaint from foreign buyers.

(d) Does not arise.

Opening of branches of Banks in West Bengal

3380. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government recommended for 612 new centres for opening bank branches under the current licensing policy period (1985-90);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of bank branches which have been opened; and

(d) by when the remaining branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the State Government of West Bengal had forwarded a list of 629 identified centres for opening branches during the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 as per details given below:

Name of District	No. of Centres identified
(1)	(2)
Bankura	27
Birbhum	31
Burdwan	43
Cooch Bihar	28
Darjeeling	12
Howrah	19
Hooghly	46
Jalpaiuri	19
Malda	16
Midnapore	109
Murshidabad	67
Nadia	54
West Dinajpur	37
Purulia	32
24 Parganas (South)	50
24 Parganas (North)	39
TOTAL :	629

Out of these 629 centres, RBI has allotted 435 eligible rural and semi-urban centres to various banks for opening branches during the current Branch Licensing Policy. As per the information available with RBI, banks have opened branches at 172 centres in West Bengal so far RBI initially advised the banks that the branches at the allotted centres should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of the Policy. However, in the context of Service Area Approach to rural lending, banks have been instructed to open branches at allotted centres expeditiously to facilitate allocation of villages to such branches under this scheme. However, it would not be possible to indicate the likely dates by which the remaining branches will be opened, as opening of branches depends upon a number of factors on which banks have no control such as availability of necessary infrastructural facilities including suitable premises for the branch.

Demonetisation of hundred rupee note

3381. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the demonetisation of hundred rupee note as a step against black money; and